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MINUTES

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE FOURTH

Convention of Delegates

FROM THE

ABOLITION SOCIETIES

Established in different Parts of the United States,

ASSEMBLED AT

PHILADELPHIA,

ON THE THIRD DAY OF MAY, ONE THOUSAND SEVEN
HUNDRED AND NINETY-SEVEN, AND CONTINUED, BY
ADJOURNMENTS, UNTIL THE NINTH DAY
OF THE SAME MONTH, INCLUSIVE.

United States of America. — American Convention
for Promoting the abolition of Slavery.



Philadelphia:

PRINTED BY ZACHARIAH POULSON, JUNIOR,
NUMBER EIGHTY, CHESNUT-STREET.

1797.



M I N U T E S

OF THE

P R O C E E D I N G S

OF THE FOURTH

Convention of Delegates.

May third, 1797.

REPRESENTATIVES from several of the Abolition Societies established in various parts of the United States, having assembled in the Senate Chamber at Philadelphia, on the third of May, 1797; it appeared, by credentials produced, that the following persons were appointed Delegates to this Convention:

Willet Seaman,
Thomas Eddy,
Samuel L. Mitchill,
William Dunlap,
Elihu Hubbard Smith,

} *From New-York.*

Joseph

Joseph Bloomfield,
Richard Hartshorne,
Joseph Sloan,
William Cox, junior,
William Carpenter,

} *From New-Jersey.*

Benjamin Rush,
William Rawle,
Samuel Powel Griffiths,
Caspar Wistar,
Samuel Coates,
Robert Patterson,
James Todd,

} *From Pennsylvania.*

Seth Hill Evitts, - - *From Choptank.*

Francis Johonnett,
Jesse Tyson,
Gerrard T. Hopkins,

} *From Baltimore.*

Joseph Anthony, - - *From Richmond.*

George Drinker, - - *From Alexandria.*

Of whom the following attended and took
their seats:

William Dunlap,	James Todd,
Elihu H. Smith,	Seth Hill Evitts,
Joseph Bloomfield,	Jesse Tyson,
Richard Hartshorne,	Francis Johonnett,
Joseph Sloan,	Gerrard T. Hopkins,
Benjamin Rush,	Joseph Anthony,
Samuel P. Griffiths,	George Drinker,
William Cox, junior,	and
Samuel Coates,	Robert Patterson.

Joseph Bloomfield was elected President.

Thomas

Thomas P. Cope was appointed Secretary,
and Jacob Meyer, Door-keeper.

Communications from New-York, Pennsylvania, Choptank, Maryland and Alexandria Abolition Societies were presented and read.

Adjourned till ten o'clock A. M. to-morrow.

May fourth, 1797.

Present:

Joseph Bloomfield, President,

William Dunlap,	Seth Hill Evitts,
Elihu H. Smith,	Francis Johonnett,
Richard Hartshorne,	Jesse Tyson,
Joseph Sloan,	Gerrard T. Hopkins,
William Cox, junior,	George Drinker,
Samuel P. Griffitts,	Joseph Anthony,
Samuel Coates,	James Todd,
Caspar Wistar,	Robert Patterson.

Communications from the New-Jersey and Virginia societies were produced and read.

It was, on motion,

Resolved, That Elihu H. Smith, Richard Hartshorne, Robert Patterson, Seth Hill Evitts, Francis Johonnett, George Drinker and Joseph Anthony be a committee to take into consideration the reports from the different Abolition Societies, and to report to the Convention the measures necessary to be taken
in

in consequence of those communications, as well as the objects proper for the attention of the Convention.

Samuel P. Griffitts stated, that the members appointed by the last Convention to notify the Abolition Societies of the meeting of this Convention, to have the proceedings of the former Conventions transcribed, and, with the papers, deposited in the care of the President of the Pennsylvania Society, had fully performed the service assigned them.

Adjourned till three o'clock P. M. to-morrow.

May fifth, 1797.

Present:

Joseph Bloomfield, President,	
Elihu H. Smith,	Francis Johnnet,
Richard Hartshorne,	Samuel Coates,
Joseph Sloan,	James Todd,
William Cox, junior,	Seth H. Evitts,
Benjamin Rush,	Jesse Tyson,
Samuel P. Griffitts,	Robert Patterson,
Caspar Wistar,	Gerrard T. Hopkins,
William Dunlap,	George Drinker,
Samuel L. Mitchell,	Joseph Anthony.

The committee appointed at the last meeting to take into consideration the reports from the different Abolition Societies, and to report to the Convention the measures necessary to be

be taken in consequence of those communications, as well as the objects proper for the attention of the Convention, made the following report, which was read and considered by paragraphs.

The committee to whom were referred the several communications made to the Convention, and who were directed to consider what objects are proper for the attention of the Convention, and the most suitable means for their attainment, report,

I. That they have carefully attended to the communications, from the several Societies, made to the Convention for the past and present years, and compared them with the recommendations and requisitions of the Convention of 1796. By the annexed table, the Convention will perceive what these requisitions and recommendations were, and how far each society has complied therewith.

II. The committee recommend it to the Convention, to address a letter or memorial to the Secretary of State of the United States, recapitulating the evidence which the records of the District Court of the United States, for the Pennsylvania District afford, of attempts made by citizens of the United States, to evade the law prohibiting our citizens from supplying foreign countries with slaves, by clandestinely using the Danish flag and registers, and praying such aid and interference of the government of the United States, with the court of Denmark, or with other governments
under

under whose authority such practices now obtain, as may consist with propriety, for the prevention of the use of their flag or registers, by the citizens of the United States, under any pretence whatever, for the purpose of pursuing the trade in men.

III. It appearing from the report of the Alexandria Society, that the law of the United States, entitled, "An act to prohibit the carrying on the slave-trade from the United States to any foreign place or country," is defective, in that it does not prevent the shipment of slaves (for sale in the West Indies and elsewhere) on board vessels, not specially fitted out for that purpose—the act being thereby evaded.

The committee recommend it to the Convention, to present a memorial or petition to Congress, praying such an amendment of the act above referred to, as may oblige the master or owner of any vessel or vessels before clearing out, to declare on oath or affirmation, that no slaves are received or taken on board said vessel or vessels, for sale in any foreign port; and as may further oblige him to enter into a recognizance or bond, with a sufficient penalty to be put in suit, and the penalty recovered, in case a sale of any slave so put on board should take place.

IV. It appears from the papers from North Carolina, that, by a law of that state, passed in 1777, certain negroes and others, who had been previously emancipated by their proprietors



prietors, citizens of that state, were taken up, and again reduced to slavery; and this, not only where the persons so emancipated had continued in the state, but also where the emancipation had been effected in other states, and the freed-man had returned into North Carolina, to reside there: in both cases, in direct violation of the constitution of the state. But the committee would recommend it to the Convention to obtain the opinion of the most eminent counsel in this city, whether an action for damages, by a person emancipated in another state before the passing of the act in 1777, and who was again reduced to slavery on returning to North Carolina, could not be maintained against the purchaser or holder of such person in the Courts of the United States; or whether any, and what legal remedy may be had for persons under these circumstances, and where they were made slaves, without having quitted the state.

V. The committee are further of opinion, that much advantage would result from annexing short and comprehensive abstracts of the laws now in force in the several states, relative to Africans and other people of color, (so far as may be practicable at this time) to the printed minutes of this Convention, for the information of the several Societies, and recommend it accordingly.

VI. The benefits which seem to have resulted from the address made to the free blacks in the United States by the Convention of

1796, in the judgment of the committee, indicate the propriety of a similar address the present year, reiterating the most important articles of advice contained in the former, and acquainting them with the general good effects which it has produced.

VII. The great object of the several Conventions in collecting the various information which they have solicited from the Societies, being to obtain materials for the composition, at some future time of a general history of slavery in the United States, it seems necessary to use means for procuring the proper documents from those states wherein no Abolition Societies now exist; it is the opinion of the committee, that the Convention should, therefore, procure the assistance of suitable persons in those states wherein no Societies for promoting the abolition of slavery are instituted, by whose means authentic copies of all laws passed therein since the settlement of the country may be obtained.

VIII. The committee recommend it to the Convention, to send letters to the Societies in London and Paris, communicating general information concerning the progress of emancipation in the United States since the last Convention; and accompanied by copies of the printed minutes of this Convention. The committee also suggest the propriety of writing to the Governor and Council at Sierra Leone, requesting such minute and legal evidence as they can afford, which may in any
wise

wife tend to discover and bring to condemnation those citizens of the United States, who, contrary to the laws of their country, pursue the traffic in slaves.

IX. Lastly—Your committee deem it proper and necessary, that a circular address be sent to the several Societies within the United States, requesting them, generally, to send Delegates to a Convention to be held in the city of Philadelphia on the first Wednesday of June, 1798, and particularly inculcating this measure on those Societies who are unrepresented in the present Convention:—that this address enjoin upon the Societies, a continued attention to the several requisitions of former Conventions as far as may apply to each, and referring them for information to the table accompanying this report, which the committee think proper to be annexed to the printed minutes of this Convention: that the special attention of such Societies as have hitherto either partially or not at all acted in this matter, be called by the address to the instruction of the people of color within their limits:—and that it solicit every kind of information from the Societies, which may, in any wise, illustrate the history of slavery in the United States; finally, that it recommend to Societies existing in the same state, that they form a general plan of union or confederation, so as on all important occasions, to act in concert.

The

The first section having been agreed to and the second postponed, it was, on motion,

Resolved, That the third be referred to a committee, consisting of James Todd and George Drinker, who are authorized to take the opinion of legal counsel on the subject, and if such counsel prove favorable to the purpose of the recommendation therein contained, to prepare and report a memorial accordingly—The fourth section was also referred to the same committee.

The fifth section was committed to William Dunlap, Joseph Sloan, Robert Patterson and Jesse Tyson, who are to collect and arrange the abstracts therein mentioned.

Benjamin Rush and Samuel Coates were appointed a committee to prepare an address agreeably to the recommendation contained in the sixth section.

The following resolution was adopted respecting the seventh section, *viz.*

Resolved, That it be recommended to the Pennsylvania Society, to carry into effect that part of the recommendation which relates to the states southward of New-York; and to the New-York Society, to carry into effect such part as regards the states to the northward of New-York.

The eighth section was referred to Samuel L. Mitchill, William Cox, junior, and Caspar Wistar, who are to prepare drafts of addresses conformably thereto.

Samuel

Samuel P. Griffitts, Caspar Wistar, Richard Hartshorne and Joseph Anthony were appointed a committee to report an address as proposed in the ninth section.

The second section was then taken up, and Samuel P. Griffitts and Samuel Coates appointed a committee to report thereon.

Seth Hill Evitts, obtained leave of absence on account of sickness in his family.

The Convention adjourned till three o'clock on Monday afternoon.

May eighth, 1797.

Present:

Joseph Bloomfield, President,

Elihu H. Smith,	Samuel Coates,
William Dunlap,	Robert Patterson,
Richard Hartshorne,	James Todd,
Joseph Sloan,	Francis Johonnett,
Benjamin Rush,	Jesse Tyson,
Samuel P. Griffitts,	Gerrard T. Hopkins,
Caspar Wistar,	George Drinker,
Samuel L. Mitchill,	Joseph Anthony.

The committee, on the third and fourth sections of the report of the committee to whom were referred the several communications made to the Convention, made report which was read.

Ordered to lie on the table.

The

The committee on the sixth section, reported an address to the free Africans and other free people of color in the United States, which was read.

Ordered to lie on the table.

The committee on the eighth section reported essays of the letters directed to be written, which were read.

Ordered to lie on the table.

The committee on the second section made report, which was read.

Ordered to lie on the table.

The committee on the ninth section made report, which was read.

Ordered to lie on the table.

The committee on the fifth section reported a number of abstracts of laws respecting slavery, which were

Ordered to lie on the table.

The report of the committee on the third and fourth sections, was then taken up, and, with the opinion of counsel on the subject, read a second time.

Whereupon,

Resolved, That a committee of two be appointed to draft and report a letter to the Secretary of the treasury of the United States, reciting the information which the Convention have received concerning the manner of evading the law of the United States prohibiting the supplying foreign nations with slaves,

slaves, and requesting him to address particular instructions to the several collectors so as to prevent such evasion. Elihu H. Smith and James Todd, were appointed a committee for carrying this resolution into effect.

The address to the free Africans and other free people of color in the United States, was called up and after consideration re-committed.

The letter proposed to be sent to the committee of the London society, instituted for the purpose of effecting the abolition of the slave trade, as reported by the committee on the eighth section, was then read; and after amendment agreed to, and the Secretary was requested to have a fair copy of it prepared for the signature of the President.

The letter to the society of the friends of the blacks at Paris, as reported by the same committee, was read, and after amendment re-committed.

The committee appointed to draft and report a letter to the Secretary of the treasury, reported one, which was read.

Ordered to lie on the table.

The Convention then entered into a consideration of the address to the Governor and Council of the Sierra Leone settlement, which was agreed to.

Adjourned till ten o'clock to-morrow morning.

May

May ninth, 1797.

Present:

Joseph Bloomfield, President,

Samuel L. Mitchill,	Samuel Coates,
William Dunlap,	James Todd,
Elihu H. Smith,	Francis Johnnet,
Richard Hartshorn,	Jesse Tyson,
Joseph Sloan,	Gerrard T. Hopkins,
Samuel P. Griffitts,	George Drinker,
Robert Patterson,	Joseph Anthony.
Caspar Wistar,	

The committee to whom was re-committed the address to the free Africans and other free people of color in the United States, made report, which was read, considered by paragraphs, and finally agreed to as follows:

TO THE
Free Africans and other free People of color

IN THE
UNITED STATES.

THE Convention of Delegates from the Abolition Societies in the United States, having again assembled for the purpose of promoting your happiness, consider it their duty, once more to call your attention to the advice which was addressed to you by the Convention of last year; and which we subjoin to the present address, in order that you may at one view be able to profit by these collected advices of your sincerest friends. The oftner we re-
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view that advice, the more we are impressed with its importance, and the more anxious we are to urge your strict and faithful observance of it. We shall only add thereto, at present, one other request, and that is, that you would avoid gaming in all its varied forms—the ruinous and miserable consequences of this most pernicious evil, are so notorious, and so generally acknowledged, that we cannot too forcibly endeavour to guard you against it. It subjects you to the controul of the most degrading passions, and too generally leads to the loss of fortune, reputation, and of every good principle.

We can with peculiar satisfaction inform you, that schools and places of worship have been established, and that they are well attended by people of your color, in New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and other places; and we are happy to find, that many of you have evinced, by your prudent and moral conduct, that you are not unworthy of the freedom you enjoy.

Go on in these paths of virtue:—By persevering in them you will justify the solicitude and labors of your friends in your behalf, and furnish an additional argument for the emancipation of such of your brethren as are yet in bondage in the United States and in other parts of the world.

Whereupon,

Resolved,

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Resolved, That the said address be signed by the President, attested by the Secretary, and that three thousand copies thereof together with a like number of the former address to the same people, be printed in the form of hand bills, to be distributed by the different Abolition Societies, in such way as may to them appear the most proper.

The committee to whom was re-committed the letter to the society of the friends of the blacks of Paris brought in their report, which was considered by paragraphs, amended and finally agreed to.

The letter to the Secretary of the treasury was read a second time and adopted as follows:

The Delegates from the several Abolition Societies established in the United States, in Convention assembled at Philadelphia,

Respectfully represent,

That it appears, by information received by us, that the act of Congress, passed March twenty-second, 1794, prohibiting our citizens from supplying foreign nations with slaves, is evaded in certain parts of the union, by the shipment of one, two, or a few slaves for sale in a foreign port, on board of vessels not specially fitted out for carrying on the slave trade. The Convention have taken the opinion of counsel on the subject, and are assured, that such shipments are equally a breach of law with those made on board of vessels originally destined to this traffic; this
assurance,

assurance, derived from respectable authority, encourages us to make application to you, as the proper officer of the government of the United States, to exert the powers with which you are invested, for the prevention of the offences of which we complain. Hitherto they have been committed with impunity, from a persuasion, on the part of the collectors of certain ports, that the prohibitions of the law did not extend to the cases referred to. But if, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Treasury, the existing law of Congress is designed to include these cases in its restrictions of the commerce in men, we feel a firm conviction that he will not refuse his friendly interference in its support, on the present occasion; but will readily consent to forward such instructions to the proper officers, as shall prevent all future doubt in respect to the meaning of the law, and all future connivance at its violation. The difficulty of bringing to justice those who are concerned in evading the provisions of the law in question, in those parts of the union where they are most common, renders it necessary that great care should be taken to remove every possible pretext for acting in opposition to its true intent. The force of this remark, we have no doubt, will be fully comprehended by the Secretary of the Treasury, and justify the propriety of this address.

The

The letter to the Secretary of State of the United States, was read a second time and adopted in the following words:

The Delegates from the several Abolition Societies established in the United States, in Convention assembled at Philadelphia,

Respectfully represent,

That the recent condemnation of two vessels engaged in a commerce contrary to the act of Congress of March twenty-second, 1794, which prohibits the citizens of these states from supplying foreign nations with slaves, has furnished us with sufficient evidence to prove that the Danish flag and registers have been made use of to cover these clandestine undertakings. Under these circumstances we feel ourselves impelled by the powerful motives of humanity and duty to our country, to forward the enclosed evidence, duly given to the District Court of Pennsylvania, and to request such aid and interference of the Executive of the United States with the Court of Denmark and other foreign powers, under whose authority such practices now obtain, or may hereafter be attempted, as may be consistent with propriety, to prevent the use of their flag and registers by citizens of the United States under any pretence whatever for the purpose of carrying on the commerce in men.

The following authenticated decree of the National Convention of France, was presented by one of the delegates of Pennsylvania:

DECREE,

D E C R E E,

Which declares, that the slavery of the negroes is abolished in all the colonies, and refers it to the committee of Public Safety to be put into form, and to report what measures are to be taken to carry it into effect.

Sixteenth Pluvios, second year.

The National Convention declares, that the slavery of the negroes is abolished in all the colonies; and therefore decrees, that all men, without distinction of color, who reside in the colonies, are French citizens, and shall enjoy all those rights secured to them by the Constitution.

Referred to the committee of public safety to report, forthwith, on the measures to be taken to carry this decree into effect.

(True copy.)

SONTHONAX,
RAIMOND.

Members of the Commission, delegated by the French government to St. Domingo.

PASCAL, *Secretary General.**

* Extract from the twelfth article of the Consular Convention, between France and the United States:

“ All differences and suits between French citizens in the United States and between American citizens in the dominions of France, shall be determined by the respective Consuls and Vice Consuls, either by a reference to arbitrators, or by a summary judgment and without costs—and no officer of the country, civil or military, shall interfere therein; or take any part whatever in the matter.”

Whereupon,

Whereupon, On motion,

Resolved, That there be sent with the circular address to each of the different Abolition Societies a copy thereof, certified by the proper officer in the United States.

The address to the several Abolition Societies, was read a second time by paragraphs, and adopted as follows, *viz.*

To the Society for promoting the Abolition of Slavery.

To inform you of our proceedings; to solicit your further advice and assistance; and to request your special attention to the original object of our meetings, we now address you.

We have, as formerly, gone through our business with harmony and satisfaction; the peculiar objects thereof will appear from our minutes, herewith transmitted; and we can truly add, that the important advantages evidently arising from such a collection of information and exchange of sentiment are too obvious, not to unite us in the recommendation, that a similar Convention of delegates from the different abolition societies, be held in this city on the first day of June, 1798.

The non-compliance of several societies with this proposal for some years past, induces us to believe that some obstacles may exist, which possibly might be removed; we therefore request, that where it is not agreed to send delegates, such societies would favor the Convention, in writing, with their determination

nation and the causes of it. This will better enable the Convention to judge of the most proper mode of proceeding in future.

A table, containing the requisitions of this and the former Conventions, and how far they have hitherto been complied with by each society, will shew the propriety and necessity of fulfilling these requisitions; which, after being thus pointed out need not now be further insisted on.

When we consider the extensive influence of education on society, we think a due attention to the instruction of the blacks and people of color of every description cannot be too forcibly impressed. This will apply not merely to what is called school learning, but essentially consists in inculcating the sound principles of morality and religion as well as habits of temperance and industry. From a continued regard to the welfare of this much injured and much oppressed people, we have again addressed them on such points as we judged would be most beneficial; but it will in a great degree rest with you to circulate and enforce the advice recommended: and we may add, that, as the evils which must necessarily result from their being retained in a state of ignorance are incalculable, so it is, in our opinion, the greatest and perhaps the only important service we can render to them and to our country, to disseminate learning and morality amongst them, thus raising them gradually and safely to that level, to which they must, in the course of time, inevitably attain.

The different Conventions have from year to year, endeavoured to procure from the Abolition Societies, every kind of information which may illustrate the history of slavery in the United States; we now repeat their request, with a view to the formation of a history of this important subject.

From the general accounts received, as well as from our own observations, we are induced strongly to recommend, that where several Abolition Societies exist in one state, they would, if possible, form a general plan of union or confederation, so as, on all important occasions, to act in concert.

You are already well informed of the act of Congress of March twenty-second, 1794, prohibiting the citizens of the United States from supplying foreign nations with slaves; you will also most probably have heard that this wise and humane law has been too frequently violated by our citizens; in consequence of which the Abolition Societies of Pennsylvania, New-York and Providence, have severally commenced prosecutions against divers persons and vessels, engaged in this abominable traffic; the first named society has been successful in the two prosecutions they undertook. The vessels have been condemned in the District Court of Pennsylvania and of the United States of America, and actions are pending against the masters and owners in the Circuit Court of the United States in and for the Pennsylvania district of the

middle circuit. There is good ground to believe that the other societies will meet with equal success.

Besides the information mutually given by societies to each other as occasion may require, to assist them in checking such clandestine practices, we believe it would be highly useful to forward every particular that comes to your knowledge on this subject, to the next Convention, who may make a very important use of it.

The difficulties which have continually occurred respecting the blacks and people of color who have for several years past emigrated from the French West-Indies into the United States have engaged the attention of this and the preceding Conventions. To remove these difficulties, we transmit you a certified copy of an authenticated decree of the National Convention of France, of the sixteenth Pluviose, second year of the Republic; (February fifth, 1794) which has been lately received by the Pennsylvania Abolition Society. With this decree, since fully confirmed by the French constitution of 1795, we believe you will have it in your power to afford every legal and effectual assistance to these unfortunate people.

There yet remains a subject which, though often urged, still continues to demand our serious attention; we allude to the most proper means of extending the principles of just and equal liberty amongst mankind: and

as we profess to assume no other powers than those of persuasion and convincement, founded on the unerring basis of truth and justice, we wish you duly to advert to the magnitude of the cause in which we are engaged, to persevere with patience and fortitude in your applications to legislative bodies and courts of justice, for the relief of our unfortunate African brethren, and to continue to enlighten the public mind, by spreading as much as possible, all kind of useful information on the subject: that thus we may, in every form, and on every occasion, be ready to plead the cause of the oppressed, in the language of persuasion and of truth. And then we shall have done our duty; and then we may, in humble confidence, look up for the blessing and protection of the great Father of all, *whose ways are just and equal, and who hath made of one blood all nations of men.*

It was, on motion,

Resolved, That so much of the reports from the several societies, as relates to the subject of the education of Africans, and their descendants, be annexed in the form of an appendix to the printed minutes of this Convention.

Resolved, That it be recommended, that all communications intended for the ensuing Convention, be directed to the care of James Pemberton, Philadelphia, President of the Pennsylvania society for promoting the abolition of slavery.

Resolved,

Resolved, That Samuel P. Griffiths, Samuel Coates, James Todd and Robert Patterson, be a committee to superintend the publication and distribution of the minutes of this Convention, as well as of the address to the free blacks, the addresses to the several Abolition Societies, and the letters and memorials ordered by this Convention; to have the minutes of this year's proceedings copied, and to give three months notice to the societies of the meeting of the Convention next year.

Resolved, That the abstracts of the laws of the several states, respecting slavery and slaves, as reported by the committee appointed to execute them, be referred to the committee for printing and distributing the minutes of this Convention; who are hereby directed to obtain any necessary corrections, and cause them to be annexed as an appendix to the minutes aforesaid.

Resolved, That the same committee present to the Speaker of the Senate of Pennsylvania, the thanks of this Convention for the use of the Senate Chamber.

Resolved, That fifteen hundred copies of the proceedings of the Convention be printed and distributed amongst the several Abolition Societies in the United States.

Adjourned, *sine die*.

Published by order of the Convention,

THOMAS P. COPE *Secretary.*

Philadelphia, May 9th. 1797.

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APPENDIX.

*Extract from the reports of the Abolition Societies
respecting education.*

New-York Society.

THE New York society many years since, instituted a school for the instruction of African descendants, in various species of knowledge; this institution, which considerable experience has proved to be of the highest importance to the progress of emancipation and the welfare of the subjects of our care, has since the last Convention received a new share of our attention, undergone a renovation, and is now on a more flourishing and respectable footing than at any former period. By an appropriation of the principal part of the funds of the society, to this object, together with the annual dividend of the bounty of the state, and the contributions of individuals, we have, at an expense of more than fourteen hundred pounds, purchased a building and lot suitable for our purpose, and the school is now maintained at the rate of about one thousand dollars a year. This institution, as the Convention will observe from the constitution of the society, is under the immediate inspection of a board of Trustees.* It is provided with a
master

* *Constitution of the New-York Society, for promoting the manumission of slaves and protecting such of them as have been or may be liberated.*

ARTICLE VIII.

1. There shall be elected a Board of Trustees for the African school, to consist of ten Members, besides the Chairman and Secretary. At every stated meeting of the society, the two Members first named on the list shall go out of office, and a new appointment of the like number be made.

2. The Trustees are to meet statedly once every month, and at such other times as the Chairman shall require, and at such places as he may direct, or the majority of them at any meeting shall appoint. Four of the Members with the Chairman shall make a sufficient board to transact business, and if the Chairman be absent five Members including a Chairman to be appointed for the time, shall constitute a board.

3. The Trustees are empowered to procure the necessary instructors, and to provide all necessary accommodations for the school, and to make contracts for those purposes, which shall be binding on the society.

master, usher and mistress, by whom the pupils are taught reading, penmanship, arithmetic, English grammar and geography, and the female scholars, in addition, needlework. The number of scholars on the first of January 1797, was one hundred and twenty-two; of whom sixty-three were males, and fifty-nine females, and this is about the usual number; many of them being of sufficient age to be occasionally serviceable to their parents and masters, some irregularity unavoidably happens in their attendance, but this is not so considerable but that more than two-thirds are generally present. The appearance, conduct and progress of this school, in the opinion of the Trustees, would do credit to any institution of the kind, and is exceeded by none in the city.

On the whole they exhibit an example of successful industry, highly honorable to themselves, gratifying to their parents, encouraging to their patrons and consoling to humanity. Mean while the spirit of improvement has diffused itself among many of their color, who have attained to years of maturity, without the benefits of instruction. An evening school under the patronage of the Board of Trustees, but not at the expense of the society, has been instituted

They may make any regulations which they may deem necessary for the due government of the school, and direct the course of studies and discipline therein. They may institute, at the expense of the society, such premiums as they may judge proper for the encouragement of the scholars in their learning; provided they do not exceed the sum of six pounds in one year. They have power to regulate the admission of scholars, and to assess such taxes as they may think reasonable and necessary on the parents, guardians and masters of the scholars; regular lists of which assessments are to be transmitted by them to the Register, who is to record the same and deliver an attested copy thereof to the Treasurer, who is to collect the several sums assessed of the persons in such lists named.

4. It is the duty of the Trustees to visit the school once in every month; to examine the scholars as to their proficiency and conduct, and to cause to be made a written report of the state of the school and of their proceedings, to every stated meeting of the society; and to give any further information respecting the school and the objects of their appointment, which they may judge necessary.

5. The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Trustees, and preserve order therein, and shall have a casting vote and no other. He may call special meetings whenever he shall think proper, or whenever requested by any two of the Trustees. He is to sign all reports and other official acts of the board.

6. The Secretary is to keep fair and regular minutes of the proceedings of the Trustees, to give notice to the Trustees of the times and places of meeting, and, under the direction and with the assistance of the Chairman, to prepare all reports to the society.

instituted the last winter; this school which is conducted by the master and usher of the society school, for their own emolument, is supported by the pupils, who amount to forty four, of both sexes, and themselves defray the charges of their education. Hitherto a degree of decorum and industry has prevailed among them much to their honor and advantage; and it will no doubt be gratifying to the Convention to learn that the usher in either school, is himself of African descent, and discharges the duties of his office with a zeal, fidelity and success, worthy of his character as a man, and his profession as a Christian.

Pennsylvania Society.

EARLY in the year 1793, the committee of the Abolition Society, for improving the condition of the free blacks,* purchased

* *A plan for improving the condition of the free blacks.*

The business relative to the free blacks shall be transacted by a committee of twenty-four persons, annually elected by ballot, at the meeting of this society in the month called April; and in order to perform the different services with expedition, regularity and energy this committee shall resolve itself into the following sub-committees, viz.

I. *A Committee of Inspection*, who shall superintend the morals, general conduct and ordinary situation of the free negroes, and afford them advice and instruction, protection from wrongs and other friendly offices.

II. *A Committee of Guardians*, who shall place out children, and young people with suitable persons, that they may (during a moderate time of apprenticeship or servitude) learn some trade or other means of subsistence. The committee may effect this partly by a persuasive influence on parents and the persons concerned, and partly by co-operating with the laws which are or may be enacted for this and similar purposes. In forming contracts on these occasions the committee shall secure to the society so far as may be practicable, the right of guardianship over the persons so bound.

III. *A Committee of Education*, who shall superintend the school instruction of the children and youth of the free blacks; they may either influence them to attend regularly the schools already established in this city, or form others with this view; they shall, in either case provide, that the pupils may receive such learning as is necessary for their future situation in life, especially a deep impression of the most important and generally acknowledged moral and religious principles. They shall also procure and preserve a regular record of the marriages, births and manumissions of all free blacks.

IV. *A Committee of Employ*, who shall endeavour to procure constant employment for those free negroes who are able to work; as the want of

purchased on a ground rent of fifteen pounds per annum, a lot of ground situate on the north side of Cherry-street, between Sixth and Seventh-streets, on which they soon after placed a frame building and opened a free school for the instruction of children of color of both sexes; in this school are taught, spelling, reading, and needle work. Eleanor Harris, a black woman, being judged well qualified, has been employed as their teacher since the opening of the school. Her salary is one hundred dollars per annum; she is also provided with a dwelling in the house, and with fire wood. The children are furnished with the necessary school-books. The expenses of this school are defrayed out of the particular funds of this committee, raised by donations, legacies and annual subscriptions. The school is regularly visited every month by the committee of education. The number of scholars who generally attend is thirty.

With a view further to extend the benefits of education to the Africans and their descendants, the above named committee for improving the condition of the free blacks, have lately procured additional contributions, supposed sufficient to enable them to establish two more schools, which it is expected will shortly be opened, one in the northern, and the other in the southern part of the city.

The committee for improving the condition of the free blacks have also afforded pecuniary assistance to a society of young

this would occasion poverty, idleness and many vicious habits. The committee will by sedulous inquiry be enabled to find common labour for a great number; they will also provide that such as indicate proper talents may learn various trades, which may be done by prevailing upon them to bind themselves for such a term of years as shall compensate their masters for the expense and trouble of instruction and maintenance. The committee may attempt the institution of some useful and simple manufactures, which require but little skill, and also may assist in commencing business, such as appear to be qualified for it.

Whenever the committee of inspection shall find persons of any particular description requiring attention, they shall immediately direct them to that committee of whose care they are the proper objects.

In matters of a mixed nature the committees shall confer, and if necessary, act in concert: Affairs of great importance shall be referred to the whole committee.

The expense incurred by the prosecution of this plan, shall be defrayed by a fund to be formed by donations or subscriptions for these particular purposes, and to be kept separate from the other funds of this society. The committee shall make a report of their proceedings and of the state of their stock, to the society at their quarterly meetings in the months called April and October.

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young men, chiefly members of the Abolition Society, who have kept an evening school since the year 1788, for the instruction of black men, in reading, writing and arithmetic, during the fall and winter months. A school room was furnished them by the overseers of the school held in Willings-alley, hereafter to be mentioned; they have generally employed a master, and have themselves served alternately as his assistants. The blacks are provided with books, &c. and taught gratis. The expense is now defrayed by voluntary contributions of the society of young men. About sixty scholars are at present taught in this school. A First-day or Sunday school is kept at this house in the summer season, for the instruction of black men in reading and writing by the same society of young men.

Besides the schools more particularly under the care and direction of the society, there are several others in this city, established for the improvement of the people of color in various branches of useful learning.

In the year 1771, two schools for the instruction of black children, male and female, were instituted by the society of Friends, on a lot of ground belonging to them in Willings-alley—An house was built, and the school supported by voluntary contributions from the members of that society, until the year 1786, when by a legacy of Anthony Benezet, amounting to a ground rent of ninety pounds per annum, a donation of five hundred pounds sterling from England, and some legacies in this country, all of which were vested in ground rents, the yearly income of the the school was near two hundred pounds—the salaries of the master and mistress, expense of fire-wood, books and stationary, amount to about two hundred and thirty-two pounds per annum. The balance is made up by the society of Friends. The teachers live in the house, rent free, and are provided with fire-wood—no children of color whether slaves or others are refused admittance to this school. The average number in each school is about forty scholars. These schools are under the care of a committee of twelve persons appointed by the society of Friends, who visit them regularly once a month.

In the year 1795, a number of young women of this city, formed a society for the purpose of teaching black women and girls reading and writing. They have procured a school room, give their personal attendance as teachers alternately, provide fire wood, and for those who are not able to procure them, books and stationary. The expense is defrayed by voluntary contributions—the school

is held in the evening during the fall and winter months—the average number of scholars who attend is thirty.

In the winter of 1796, a First-day or Sunday school for the education of the black people in reading and writing was opened by a member of the Abolition Society at the Methodist African meeting-house in Sixth-street, and held between the hours of public worship. From sixty to ninety persons, chiefly adults of both sexes, usually attended. The original institutor of this school was soon afterwards assisted by several young men, mostly members of the Abolition Society. The generality of the scholars were furnished with books gratis; the fund for defraying the necessary expenses was raised by contributions solicited by the founder, who proposes in lieu of the day school to keep one in the evening on a similar plan, during the winter season.

All the accounts procured of the different schools concur in declaring, that the improvement and behaviour of the people of color is encouraging and satisfactory.

Alexandria Society.

THE committee appointed for carrying into effect the plan of education adopted by the society, beg leave to make the following report, respecting the state, progress and prospect of the school which they have organized in conformity with the aforesaid plan.

Your

Plan of Education—Whereas the views of this society are not only to obtain legal justice for the oppressed Africans and their descendants, and to mitigate their sufferings, but also to ameliorate their condition in general as far as may be practicable; as well as that all others in indigent circumstances, who may appear fit objects of the patronage of the society, may receive benefit therefrom.

The society contemplating these objects, and sensible that a proper education, directed to the improvement of the mind and the regulation of the heart, is a fruitful source of human happiness, are desirous that these unhappy people may be admitted to a participation of its benefits. But the society being apprehensive that little opportunity will be afforded them of attending to these important advantages during that part of the week allotted to bodily labour. It is therefore resolved—that for the attainment of this desirable end, Sunday schools be established in this town, under the patronage and by the direction of the society, on the principles and in manner following:

Your committee having divided themselves into classes, and engaged Benjamin Davis as teacher, for four months, at the rate of sixty dollars a year, opened school on Sunday the eleventh of December last in Archibald McLean's school room, on which day they admitted seventeen scholars: the number has increased every school day since, and at present amounts

A committee of twelve members of the society shall be appointed for carrying into effect this resolution, a majority of whom shall constitute a quorum.

It shall be the duty of said committee when appointed, to procure suitable apartments (gratis, if possible) for the accommodation of scholars to be hereafter admitted, and to employ, at the expense of the society, competent teachers, to take the immediate charge of said schools,

In these seminaries shall be taught, orthography, reading, writing and the more useful parts of arithmetic; and the morals of the pupils shall be carefully attended to.

These schools shall be open indiscriminately for the reception of children of indigent parents, whose circumstances in life, exclude them from other means of education, but more especially the children of free blacks and mulattoes, and the slaves of all who choose to send them; also, free adults of the aforementioned description who may be thought able to pay, and the children of such shall be admitted at a low rate of tuition, and all monies so raised, shall be appropriated to the sole use of said institution.

The committee shall be chosen for one year in the same manner as other officers—as soon as convenient after their election, they shall divide themselves equally into two classes, the first of which shall vacate their places at the end of six months, and the second at the end of twelve months; so that one half shall be chosen every six months—and no member who shall have served out the regular term of his appointment, shall be eligible for the next six months—in case of vacancies in their own body, they shall have power to fill such vacancies till the next election.

The committee shall divide themselves into three classes, one of which in rotation shall attend said schools personally every Sabbath day, to inspect the state of them, see that the teachers perform their duty, and for any other purposes, which they may conceive calculated to promote the ends of the institution.

Moreover if the committee shall not be able as soon as requisite, to procure suitable teachers, or if at any time vacancies happen, in either case, the committee shall themselves by classes, take charge of such school or schools as may be destitute till it or they can be supplied.

The committee shall, under the aforesaid regulations, have a discretionary power in the management of said institution; they shall have the sole right of admitting, rejecting and expelling scholars, of fixing the hours of commencing and breaking up school: *Provided nevertheless*, that the concurrence of two-thirds of the members shall be necessary for the expulsion of any scholar whom they may deem unworthy of the institution; they shall meet at least once a month, for the transaction of business, and shall at each quarterly meeting of the society, make report of their proceedings, and of the state of the institution.

amounts to one hundred and eight who have been admitted. Of this number ten have attended irregularly and agreeably to a resolve of the committee passed the fourth instant, for excluding such as absent themselves four school days successively without a satisfactory excuse, your committee apprehend most of the above mentioned delinquents will vacate their places.

In regard to the advancement of the pupils in learning, your committee state, that they have four who write a very legible hand, read the scriptures with a tolerable facility and have commenced arithmetic: eight others are capable of reading the scriptures, but have as yet made small advancement in writing: fifteen can spell words of three or four syllables and read easy lessons: some of these have been put to writing: the residue are chiefly learning the alphabet or to spell monosyllables.

Many of the pupils (especially those of mature age) evince a strong desire and considerable aptitude for learning. Their deportment in general is orderly and respectful, and their external appearance very decent.

Your committee feel gratified in having it in their power to report thus favourably of the institution. They flatter themselves that its effects will be lastingly beneficial in improving the minds and amending the morals of those for whose advantage it was established.

Your committee cannot dismiss the subject without earnestly recommending this infant institution to the vigilant guardianship of the society; expressing at the same time their sanguine hopes of its ultimate success and extensive utility.

A Table shewing the recommendations and requisitions of the Convention of 1796, and of former Conventions, and how far they have hitherto been complied with by each Society.

I. To send delegates to a Convention to meet at Philadelphia in May, 1797.

New-York society,	complied.
New-Jersey society,	ditto.
Pennsylvania society,	ditto.
Maryland society, (at Baltimore)	ditto.
Choptank society, (Maryland)	ditto.
Alexandria society, (Virginia)	ditto.
Virginia society, (at Richmond)	ditto.
Rhode-Island, Connecticut, Washington (Pennsylvania),	
Wilmington (Delaware,) Delaware, Chester-town (Maryland,) Winchester (Virginia,) and Kentucky societies sent	
none.	

II. To transmit certified copies of all the laws in the respective States relating to slavery; as well of those repealed as of those in force.

Connecticut	transmitted in 1795.
New-York,	in 1797.
New-Jersey,	in 1796.
Pennsylvania,	in 1797.
Maryland,	in 1797.
Virginia and } Alexandria. }	in 1797, a copy of professor Tucker's dissertation on slavery, which contains the substance of all the laws of Virginia respecting slavery from its settlement till 1794. Copies of the laws since that period also sent.

Rhode-Island, Delaware, and Kentucky societies have not yet transmitted.

III. To forward correct lists of the officers and other members of each respective society.

New-York complied in 1796 and 1797, number of members two hundred and fifty.

New-Jersey complied partially.

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania complied in 1797. Members five hundred and ninety-one.

Wilmington complied in 1796. Members about sixty.

Maryland complied in 1797. Members two hundred and thirty-one.

Choctank complied in 1797. Members twenty-five.

Alexandria complied in 1797. Members sixty-two.

Virginia complied in 1796 and 1797. Members one dred and forty-seven.

Rhode-Island, Connecticut, Washington, Delaware, Chester-town, Winchester and Kentucky societies have not yet sent lists of their members.

IV. *An account of the proceedings of each society in relieving persons unlawfully held in bondage.*

New-York. Since January 1796, have had complaints from ninety persons, Africans or of African descent—twenty-nine freed on the law prohibiting importation—seven as free born—two unsuccessful—heavy damages recovered in some instances—twenty-one cases now in suit—nineteen under consideration.

New-Jersey Society. Many manumissions have been effected since January 1796, but no precise information is yet received to what number and under what circumstances.

Pennsylvania Society. It appears from the minutes of the acting committee of the society, that many hundreds of Africans have been liberated through their aid since the institution of the society.

Wilmington Society. Has sent a list of persons liberated by their agency up to 1796, amounting to eighty since 1788.

Maryland Society at Baltimore. A variety of suits were instituted against the unlawful holders of slaves last year, and in consequence many have been liberated—there are several suits now pending in law, which are expected to have the like favorable issue.

Choctank Society. This society has exerted itself in favor of the Africans, for seven years; and been the instrument of liberating more than sixty individuals, and has failed but in a single application to a court of justice in their behalf.

Alexandria

*Alexandria
Society.*

Twenty-six complaints made to the society—six persons relieved on the law against importation; five will probably be relieved, the other fourteen cases on which as well as on the above five suits are pending are doubtful. A suit in Norfolk court and one in North Carolina now carrying on at the expense of this society.

*Virginia
Society.*

Nothing of material importance since the convention of 1796. Suits commenced before now pending in behalf of between twenty and thirty persons.

Rhode-Island, Connecticut, Washington, Delaware, Chester-town, Winchester, and Kentucky societies sent no account.

V. *A statement of the condition of the blacks in each state both bond and free, with respect to the property of the free, and the employment and moral conduct of all.*

New-York.

The number of people of color in the state of New-York not known—exceeds two thousand—in the city names of one thousand collected—of these more than half are free, employed as servants, labourers, sailors, mechanics, &c.—a few are small traders—condition tolerable—many in town and country freeholders—several worth from three hundred to thirteen hundred dollars—various associations among the free blacks for mutual support, benefit and improvement—one has a lot for a burying ground and the site of a church worth fifteen hundred dollars.

In a state of progressive improvement.

New-Jersey.

Condition, as to enjoyments of life and respectability, much the same as in New-York.

Pennsylvania.

Complied with in 1796. See the minutes of the convention of that year—page 20 and 21.

Maryland at

Baltimore &

Choptank.

The condition of the blacks from the information this society has received is greatly ameliorated, and some few of the free are enabled to provide for themselves without manual labor—moral conduct equal to that of the whites in like circumstances—minute information not yet obtained.

Alexandria.

Alexandria. Generally slaves—their treatment less rigorous than formerly—moral conduct of the free generally good—as labourers preferred to the whites.

From Rhode-Island, Connecticut, Washington, Wilmington, Delaware, Chester-town, Virginia, Winchester and Kentucky societies—none sent.

VI. Reports of trials and adjudications relative to Africans.

New-York. None ever preserved in this state.

New-Jersey. Sent in 1796.

Pennsylvania. None have been preserved by the society, but some have been published and others are now preparing for publication.

Rhode-Island, Connecticut, Washington, Wilmington, Delaware, Maryland, Chester-town, Choptank, Alexandria, Virginia, Winchester and Kentucky societies—sent none.

VII. Endeavours used to obtain a repeal or amelioration of the laws respecting slavery.

New-York. A bill for the gradual abolition of slavery brought into the Legislature at their last session, but postponed till the next session.

New-Jersey. A bill brought into the last session of the Legislature for a gradual abolition of slavery which is postponed to the next session as in New-York.

Pennsylvania. A bill for the total abolition of slavery was brought into and read in the House of Representatives near the close of the last session of the Legislature, but lies over to the next session.

Maryland at Baltimore. No attempt has been made since the Convention of 1796.

Alexandria. Have drawn up and mean to present to the next Legislature, a remonstrance against a late law of the state which is peculiarly severe against Africans.

Rhode-Island, Connecticut, Washington, Wilmington, Delaware, Chester-town, Choptank, Virginia, Winchester, and Kentucky societies transmitted no information.

VIII.

VIII. *The progress made in extending to Africans the benefits of instruction.*

New-York. House and lot for a school purchased by the society since January 1796—school has existed many years—more flourishing now than ever—property of the society for its accommodation worth upwards of three thousand five hundred dollars—annual expense of the school one thousand dollars—has a master, usher and mistress—scholars taught reading, penmanship, arithmetic, English grammar and geography—girls (additionally) needle work—number one hundred and twenty-two—boys sixty-three—girls fifty-nine—improve fast and behave as well as any other children—evening school in the winter for free blacks, adults—taught by the master and usher of the society's school—number, forty-four—usher a black man.

New-Jersey. Nothing done by the society—a bill is now pending before the Legislature providing for the instruction of all children in the state, which, if carried, will include the Africans as well as the whites.

Pennsylvania. Within the city and liberties of Philadelphia there are at present seven schools for the education of people of color; at which perhaps near three hundred scholars of both sexes usually attend—two other schools are about to be opened for the same purpose.

Maryland at Baltimore. Several children of Africans and other people of color now under a course of instruction—an academy (of which notice was given to the last convention) will be opened the ensuing season, and suitable teachers provided.

Alexandria. A Sunday school opened by this society in December, 1795, for the reception of Africans and their descendants—the number of scholars who usually attend is one hundred and eight—they are instructed in reading, penmanship and arithmetic.

From Rhode-Island, Connecticut, Washington, Wilmington, Delaware, Chester-town, Choptank, Virginia, Winchester, and Kentucky societies—no information received.

IX. *To establish periodical discourses on the subject of slavery and the means of its abolition.*

Connecticut. No information this year—there have been seven or eight discourses delivered before the society, the greater part of which have been printed and circulated extensively.

New-York. The first annual discourse delivered before this society the twelfth of April, 1797.

Pennsylvania. Not deemed necessary in this state, where the general sentiments of the people are, in a great degree, congenial with those of the society.

Maryland. Complied with.

Rhode-Island, New-Jersey, Washington, Wilmington, Delaware, Chester-town, Choptank, Alexandria, Virginia, Winchester, and Kentucky societies transmitted no information on the subject.

X. *To keep accurate registers of all deeds of manumission executed within the precincts of each society.*

New-York. Attended to by this society from the first, so far as depended on itself.

Pennsylvania. A register of manumissions kept by the acting committee.

Maryland at Baltimore, and Choptank. The society preserve a register—and all manumissions are matter of record in the county courts.

Alexandria. A register is kept by the society, manumissions are recorded in the court of Common Pleas.

Virginia. Deeds of emancipation are recorded in the county courts.

From Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New-Jersey, Washington, Wilmington, Delaware, Chester-town, Winchester and Kentucky societies—no information.

XI. *To distribute suitable publications tending to promote the design of the institutions.*

New-York. Attended to partially.

New-Jersey. Attended to generally.

Pennsylvania. Faithfully attended to.

Alexandria. Attended to, and a new publication is soon to be made on the subject of slavery.

From Rhode-Island, Connecticut, Washington, Wilmington, Delaware, Maryland, Chester town, Choptank, Virginia, Winchester and Kentucky societies—no information.

XII. *To endeavour to free negroes from St. Domingo retained here as slaves, contrary to the decree of the National Convention of France.*

Pennsylvania. Acted on as cases have occurred—from the other societies—no information.

XIII. *To discourage the use of articles manufactured by slaves.*

No particular measures on this subject are represented as being adopted by any of the societies.

XIV. *To distribute the address to the free people of color from the convention of 1796.*

New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Alexandria societies—done.

Choptank society. Not received till late by this society.

Virginia society. Done in part.

From Rhode-Island, Connecticut Washington, Wilmington, Delaware, Chester-town, Winchester and Kentucky societies—no information.

XV. *To send copies of the constitutions of the respective societies.*

Connecticut. Sent.

New-York, Sent the original in 1796, and the revised one in 1797.

New-Jersey. Sent in 1796.

Pennsylvania. ditto.

Wilmington. ditto.

Maryland. ditto.

Alexandria. Sent 1797.

Virginia. Sent 1796.

Rhode-Island, Washington, Delaware, Chester-town, Choptank, Winchester and Kentucky societies sent none.

The following abstracts of the existing laws respecting slavery in the States of Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, are published for general information—The inconsistency of several of these laws arises from the nature of the subject, and though much care has been taken to make these abstracts plain and intelligible, yet we do not suppose we have fully succeeded in this first essay. We hope that fuller documents and more consistent laws, will enable future Conventions to perform this task with greater perspicuity and usefulness.

By the existing laws of Connecticut:

Any negro, molatto, or indian servant or slave, who shall be found wandering out of the bounds of the place to which he belongs, without a pass from a magistrate or from his owner, shall be treated as a runaway, and citizens are empowered to secure such persons and bring them before the magistrate, the owner being liable for all charges accruing thereby.

Ferry-men are required not to suffer such persons to pass their ferries under penalty of twenty shillings for each offence, to the owner; and if free negroes shall travel without such certificate, and be stopped or taken up, they shall pay all charges arising thereby.

Any person presuming to buy or receive from an indian, molatto or negro servant or slave, any money or goods without order from the owner, shall be sentenced to restore all such articles and also forfeit double the value thereof, and treble, if the article is not to be obtained: and if the person so offending do not make restitution as awarded, then to be publicly whipt, not exceeding twenty stripes, or make satisfaction by service. And any indian, negro or molatto servant or slave, so depositing or selling such articles or money, if it appear they were stolen, or that shall steal any money or goods and shall be convicted, (although the buyer or receiver be not found) shall be whipt, not exceeding thirty stripes, and the things stolen if found, returned to the party injured, or the value if not found.

Any servant or slave, as above, if found from home after nine o'clock at night, may be taken before a magistrate, who may order him or her to be whipt on the naked body, not

not exceeding ten stripes, and pay cost of court, unless redeemed by the master's paying a fine not exceeding ten shillings: and any person entertaining or tolerating any such persons in his house after such hour, shall forfeit ten shillings.

No slave shall be imported into this state to be left or sold, under the penalty of one hundred pounds.

Any person manumitting a slave is liable to the maintenance of such slave; and the same as to negro, molatto and Spanish indian servants for time, whose time is expired; except a certificate be procured from the select men empowering such liberation, which they are empowered to grant if to a majority of them it appears that such slave or servant, is able to support himself and is of good and peaceable life and conversation.

No negro or molatto child, born after the first day of March one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four, shall be held in servitude after attaining the age of twenty-five years.

No citizen or resident of this state, shall import or transport or buy or sell or receive on board his or her vessel, with intent to cause to be imported or transported, any of the inhabitants of any country in Africa, as slaves, or servants for term of years: upon penalty of fifty pounds for each person so imported or transported, and of five hundred pounds for every vessel employed in such importation or transportation; and all insurance on vessels so employed, or slaves or servants so shipped is void.

Any person who shall kidnap, decoy or forcibly carry off, out of this state any free negro, indian or molatto or any person entitled to freedom at the age of twenty-five years, or shall aid or assist therein, being duly convicted, shall forfeit one hundred pounds, and in addition, such sum in damages as the court shall determine: *Provided* that nothing in this act shall operate to prevent persons removing out of this state, for the purpose of residence, from carrying or transporting with them such negroes or molattoes as belong to them, or to prevent persons living within this state, from directing their servants out of this state about their ordinary and necessary business.

Any owner, master or factor of any vessel clearing out for the coast of Africa, or suspected by any citizen of this state, to be intended for the slave trade in any part of the world, may on declaration of such suspicion, made on oath to the naval officer, to his satisfaction, be required to give bond in one thousand pounds that none of the natives of Africa, or any other foreign country, shall be taken on board such vessel,

vessel, during her voyage, with intent to be transported as slaves to any other part of the world.

All persons are required to give in to the Town Clerk of the place where they reside, on oath, the names of such children as are or shall be in their possession, as are entitled to freedom at the age of twenty-five years, under penalty of forty shillings for every month's neglect, after the time fixed by this act.

No person shall transport or assist in transporting for the purpose of selling, out of this state, any negro or molatto slave or servant for time, upon penalty of one hundred pounds. And all notes, bonds, mortgages or securities given in payment for persons so transported, are made void.

If any owner of a slave shall make application to any two of the civil authority, or one of the civil authority and two select men of the town to which he belongs, for the purpose of manumitting his slave, it shall be the duty of said authority if the slave is found to be in good health, and not more than forty-five years of age or less than twenty-five years, to give to the owner a certificate thereof under their hands: *Provided* the slave is desirous of being made free, and this certificate enables the owner to manumit the slave, without incurring any risque of after maintaining him.

By the act of the Legislature of the state of New-York, passed the twenty-second of February 1788, and which comprizes all the laws respecting slaves, it is enacted:

That every negro, molatto or mustee, within the state, who at the time of the passing the act, was a slave for life, shall continue such unless manumitted, in the manner prescribed by the act, or set free by some future law of the state; and the children of such person shall follow the condition of the mother, and be adjudged slaves. The baptizing of a slave is declared not to be a manumission of such slave.

Slaves under fifty years of age may be manumitted, by the owners of them, on procuring a certificate from the overseers of the poor, or two justices of the peace, or the Mayor or Recorder and two Aldermen, that such slaves ap-
pear

pear to be under fifty years of age, and of sufficient ability to maintain themselves, and having such certificate registered with the Clerk of the city, county or town, where the owner or slave resides; without being obliged to give security to indemnify such city, town or place, or to maintain them after they have become helpless through old age or infirmity. Slaves may, in like manner, be manumitted by will, if the executors procure such certificate.

Or they may be manumitted at any age without such certificate, provided the owner or the executors of any testator, or any other person, in behalf of the slave, will give security at the sessions, or enter into a bond to the state, to save harmless the city, town or place, from the charge of any such slave. And, even if any such person is manumitted by last will, or otherwise, and no certificate be attained or security given, yet such slave shall be considered as freed from the owner or his executors, administrators or assigns, and he or they shall be liable to maintain them when they become helpless and unable to maintain themselves. If the overseers of the poor shall refuse to give the certificate as abovementioned, the owner may appeal to the Quarter Sessions, who are authorized to grant the certificate.

No person can sell slaves to another who is unable to maintain them, under the penalty of twenty pounds; and shall still be deemed owner of such slaves.

Any slave striking a white person may be committed by a Justice of the Peace, and be tried and suffer the punishment inflicted for *petit larceny*.

In all capital cases, negroes or other slaves, shall have the privilege of a trial by jury.

Slaves convicted of any crime, under a capital offence, may on the request of the owner, and at the discretion of the court, be transported out of the state. Slaves are not admitted as witnesses in any cause whatever for or against any person, except that in criminal cases, their evidence may be taken for, or against, each other.

All contracts made with slaves, without consent of their owners, are void. The owners of slaves are liable for their trespasses to the value of five pounds.

No person shall harbour a runaway slave, or trade with a slave without consent of the owner; under the penalty of five pounds.

To prevent the further importation of slaves into the state, it is enacted—That any person who shall sell, as a
slave

slave, within this state, any negro or other person, who has been imported or brought into the state since the first of June, 1783, or since the passing of the act, shall be deemed guilty of a public offence, and forfeit one hundred pounds, to be recovered by action of debt with costs of suit, one half to the Treasurer of the state, and the other half to the person suing for the same—and every such person, so brought into the state and sold, is declared to be free—and if any person shall buy, or, as an agent, shall receive any slave, with an intent to export or carry such slave out of the state to be sold, such person or agent, shall, in like manner be deemed guilty of a public offence, and forfeit the sum of one hundred pounds; and such slave, immediately after he shall be so purchased, taken, or received, is declared to be free.

Abstracts of New-Jersey laws respecting slaves, &c.

The act passed the twentieth of October, 1694, prohibits the permitting any slave to carry any gun or pistol, or take any dog with him into the woods or plantations, unless accompanied by his owner or some other white person by order of his owner, under the penalty of twenty shillings for the first offence, and thirty shillings for the second, and ten shillings more for every offence after; to be recovered of the owner—Inflicts a penalty on suffering slaves to keep any swine without the owners mark, and provides that any person lending to any slave a pistol or gun, shall forfeit the same or twenty shillings to the owner of the said slave.

The act passed March seventeenth, 1713, prohibits the trafficking with any negro, indian or molatto slave, without the consent of the owner or other person having the care of such slave, under the penalty of twenty shillings for the first offence, and forty shillings for the second and every other offence, and authorizes the taking up and whipping any slave that may be found five miles from his master or mistresses habitation, or that may come out of any other province into New-Jersey, unless such slave have leave in writing from his master or mistress, or is known to be on his or her business.

The twelfth section of the same act prescribes the penalty of forty shillings for every time that any person shall harbour or entertain the slave of another without the consent of the master or mistress, excepting in distress of weather or other extraordinary occasion, and if any person shall harbour, conceal, or assist in carrying away any slave who shall

shall happen to be lost, die, or be otherwise rendered unseizable, he shall pay the value of such slave to the owner.

The thirteenth section provides, that no negro, indian or molatto, who shall thereafter be made free, shall hold or possess any houses, lands, tenements or hereditaments in his own right, in fee simple or fee tail.

The first section of an act passed October twenty-third, 1751, authorizes any Justice of the peace, on application to him made by the master of any servant or slave, to cause to be brought before him any person who may be suspected of having sold any strong liquor to such slave or servant without his master's consent, and to tender an oath or affirmation that he has not so done, and his refusal to take the said oath or affirmation shall be sufficient evidence to convict him thereof.

The second and third sections provide, that if more than five negro or molatto slaves shall meet and assemble together, (unless on their master or mistresses business) they shall be apprehended and whipped, and if any negro or molatto slave shall be seen from his master's house after nine o'clock at night, except on his master or mistresses business, or shall be seen to hunt or carry a gun on the Lord's day, he shall be taken before a Justice of the peace and whipped; but nothing in the said act shall be construed to prevent any negro or molatto slave from going to church or meeting, and attending on divine service or from burying their dead with their master or mistresses consent.

A law passed March the second, 1786.

Section I, Inflicts a penalty of fifty pounds for bringing a slave into the state imported from Africa since 1776.

Section II, Inflicts a penalty of twenty pounds for bringing a slave into the state though not imported since 1776.

Section III, Exempts from the above penalty persons coming into the state to settle, and strangers making a temporary stay, provided the slaves they bring have not been imported from Africa since the year 1776, which slaves are not to be sold in the state.

Section IV, Gives such penalties to the use of the state.

Section V, Authorizes the manumission of sound and rational slaves between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-five years, by writing under hand and seal, under the inspection of two Overseers of the poor and two Justices of the peace,

who are to certify the same, and gives the form of such certificate, which shall exempt the master's estate from maintaining the slave so freed if he or she, at a future, time becomes chargeable, and orders the manumission and certificate to be recorded in the office of the Clerk of the county.

Section VI, Gives the slave so set free, a legal settlement in the township wherein the master or mistress had a settlement when the slave was thus emancipated, and any possession, duty, employment or paying tax, shall not give a settlement elsewhere.

Section VIII, Authorizes grand juries to take cognizance of inhuman treatment or abuse of slaves, permitting the Court to fine the perpetrator, not exceeding five pounds for the first offence and ten pounds for the second, giving the penalty to the township.

Section IX, Prohibits slaves freed in another state, from travelling in this state, and inflicts a penalty of five pounds per week on any person concealing, employing or permitting such to live in their house or on their land, nor may a slave freed in Jersey, travel out of the township or county wherein he was manumitted, without a certificate of his freedom, signed by two Justices and countersigned by the county Clerk under seal of the county Court.

A law passed November the twenty-sixth, 1788.

Section I, Forfeits the vessel, appurtenances and cargo, if fitted out for the slave trade.

Section II, Gives of such forfeiture, $\frac{2}{3}$ to the state and $\frac{1}{3}$ to the prosecutor.

Section III, Inflicts a penalty of fifty pounds on masters of vessels, seamen or other persons for attempting to resist, when about to be seized under this law.

Section VI, Provides that no slave that has resided one year last past in the state, shall be removed out with a design thereby of changing his or her place of abode if of full age, without the consent of such slave, testified on private examination before a Justice of the peace, and if under the age of twenty-one years consent as aforesaid, together with the consent, also, of parents if such minor hath any, the Justice to make a record of such consent and give such slave a copy thereof, with the name, age, former place of abode, the reason of such removal and the name of the place to which he or she is about to go; and any person removing or aiding, or abetting the removal of a slave contrary to this

this act, shall forfeit and pay twenty pounds for every such offence, half the penalty to the prosecutor and half to the poor. But this act is not to be construed to hinder a matter or mistress who shall remove to and reside in another state, from taking his or her slave or slaves with him or her.

Section V, Puts negro and molatto slaves or free persons on the same footing with regard to trials and punishments, in all criminal cases with white people.

Section VI, Obliges masters and mistresses, to teach all negro and molatto slaves and servants to read, while under the age of twenty-one years, and for refusal or neglect, inflicts a penalty of five pounds.

Abstracts of the existing laws of Pennsylvania.

No person born in this state since the first of March, 1780, shall be considered as a slave or servant for life.

Negro or molatto children born of slaves are to serve till the age of twenty-eight years, and to be entitled to similar treatment and freedoms with white servants.

Slaves not duly registered before the first of November, 1780, or in case of run-aways or those employed abroad as seamen within five years after that date, are to be considered as free—The masters to be liable to the Overseers of the poor, where such negro or molatto shall become chargeable, unless regularly manumitted before the age of twenty-eight years.

Trials of negroes and molattoes shall be the same as of other persons—but the evidence of a slave shall not be admitted against a freeman.

When sentence of death is executed against a slave, the master shall be indemnified for the loss.

Slaves brought into this state from other states or nations, except the domestic slaves of Members of Congress, of foreign Ministers and Consuls, of persons passing through or sojourning but not becoming residents, and seamen in vessels not belonging to any inhabitant of this state; and (except in the case of Members of Congress, foreign Ministers and Consuls) not retained in the state more than six months, shall be deemed free—but no shelter or relief from this act shall be given to run-aways from slavery or servitude.

No covenant of servitude or apprenticeship, shall be valid for more than seven years, or if under twenty-one when bound, till the age of twenty-eight years.

No negro or molatto slave or servant for a term of years, shall be removed out of the state for the purpose of changing residence or otherwise frustrating the good intention of this law, without the consent, legally obtained, of such slave or servant; nor shall any person sell or dispose of any such slave or servant to any person out of the state—penalty seventy-five pounds.

Children born of slaves, to be duly registered within six months after birth—otherwise the master to lose all right to the service of such children.

No vessel shall be fitted out from any port in this state, for the purpose of carrying on a trade or traffic in slaves, under the penalty of forfeiting said vessel; and every person concerned in thus fitting out, aiding or abetting, shall pay a penalty of one thousand pounds.

Husband and wife, parent and child, in a state of slavery or servitude for a term of years, shall not be separated to a greater distance than ten miles, for the purpose of changing the place of abode, without the consent of such husband or wife legally obtained; or, in the case of a child, that it be above the age of four years—penalty fifty pounds.

For kidnapping, or by fraud, force or violence, carrying away any negro or molatto out of this state, a penalty of one hundred pounds, and confinement to hard labor from six to twelve months.

By the existing laws of Maryland,

Slaves imported or brought into the state either for sale or to reside, cease to be the property of the person importing or bringing them in and become free, except such person be a citizen of the United States, coming with a bona fide intention to reside and bring such persons with him as his property, on his removal or within a year after, such slaves or their mother having been previously resident for three years in some of the United States.

A citizen of this state, owning land and slaves employed thereon in an adjoining state, may bring them in for his own use but not for sale; provided such slaves or their ancestors were resident in such adjoining state before the twenty-first of April, 1783, and a list of such slaves be filed with the Clerk of the county within three months in the form prescribed by law. This privilege is also granted to a citizen of another state owning land in this state, to citizens of this, acquiring property in slaves in another state, and to citizens of another state acquiring property in them in this state by marriage, bequest, distribution or as guardians, who may respectively bring in or carry out such slaves.

A negro or other slave carried out of the state by an executor, administrator or guardian, may be brought in again by the owner or proprietor.

No person can dispose of slaves imported or brought in, or their increase, unless he shall have been resident in the state for three years preceding such sale, except by last will and testament, or for the payment of bona fide debts, or in case of intestacy.

Citizens of France seeking an asylum in this state and becoming resident therein, may hold their slaves; provided that those of a master of a family do not exceed five, and those of a single man three in number, and that a list of them be recorded with the Clerk of the county. They are not permitted to sell them in the state, and if a greater number than the law permits are brought in, they must be re-shipped within a year or they become free.

Persons brought into this state from any of the United States, and bound to service for a term of years by the laws of the state from which they are brought, shall serve no longer than such laws oblige them.

Any person forcibly or fraudulently transporting or carrying out of the state or bringing therein any free negro or molatto, knowing them to be free or entitled to freedom at a certain age, and selling them for life or for a longer term than they are bound to serve by law, forfeits eight hundred dollars for every such offence, and in case of inability to pay, is to be adjudged to labor on the public roads for a period not exceeding five years.

Healthy slaves may be manumitted by writing under hand and seal, executed in presence of two witnesses or by last will and testament, provided such slaves be under forty-five years of age and it be not in prejudice of creditors. Such manumission must be recorded, and a copy of the record is received as good evidence.

No petitions for freedom are to originate in the General Court, but must be preferred in the Court of the county where the petitioner resides, and at the instance of either party, a trial by jury may be had, upon which, either may challenge peremptorily, twelve jurors: no appeal is allowed from the judgment of such Court, except on matters of law.

The attorney of any petitioner for freedom, is liable for all costs in case of the dismissal of the petition, unless the Court under all the circumstances are of opinion that there were probable grounds, and no new petition can be preferred until the costs of a former are paid.

Any person convicted of giving a pass to a slave or servant or assisting by advice or donation or loan the transporting of any such slave or servant, or by other unlawful means depriving the owner of their service, is to be fined not exceeding two hundred dollars.

Stealing of negroes or other slaves is punished with death.

A free negro giving or selling a certificate of his freedom to a slave in order that he may personate the grantee of such certificate and thereby obtain his freedom, forfeits a sum not exceeding three hundred dollars, and upon non-payment may be sold for a term not exceeding seven years.

Free negroes are not permitted to give evidence against a white person nor in favor of a slave petitioning for freedom; neither can they vote at elections or be elected or appointed to any office of profit or trust.

A slave giving false testimony against another slave shall have one ear cut off on the day of conviction and receive thirty-nine lashes, and on the following day shall have the other ear cut off and the same number of lashes repeated.

No person is to join in marriage any negro or molatto slave with a white person under penalty of five thousand pounds of tobacco.

Free negroes or molattoes intermarrying with whites are liable to become slaves for life except molattoes born of white women who become servants for seven years.

A white woman having a child by a negro or other slave becomes (if free) a servant for seven years, and if a servant is obliged to serve seven years after her present term expires; the same penalty is to be inflicted on a free negro having a child by a negro woman who is a slave, on a molatto woman having a bastard child by a slave, on a free negro

negro woman having a bastard child by a white man and on a white man begetting a bastard child on a negro woman whether she is a slave or free.

The baptism of negroes or molattoes is declared not to give any right to freedom.

Masters permitting their slaves to go about begging may be held under recognizance by the county Courts.

The owner of any negro or other slave who shall suffer such slave to keep horses or to raise cattle or hogs as his proper right, forfeits five hundred pounds of tobacco and such horses, &c. are also forfeited.

A person permitting his slave to go at large or to hire himself, and the person hiring or contracting with any such slave, forfeits five pounds per month, except ten days at harvest or in case the slave is a pilot.

Any person entertaining a runaway servant or slave, forfeits five hundred pounds of tobacco for every twenty-four hours, and if a free negro or molatto harbours any such servant or slave he forfeits one thousand pounds of tobacco: If he be unable to pay, the Justices may immediately order satisfaction by servitude or otherwise.

Negroes meeting together from home without licence from their owners or overseers on the sabbath or other holy day may be whipped by the constable not exceeding thirty-nine lashes, and any negro of the owner of the place where such meeting may be, refusing to assist the constable shall receive thirty-nine lashes. Any person encouraging the meeting of slaves except on lawful occasions, forfeits one thousand pounds of tobacco.

Any strange negro coming on a plantation not his master's and not on his master's lawful occasions, being ordered to go home and refusing or delaying so to do, may be whipped by order of the owner of such plantation not exceeding thirty-nine lashes.

Slaves selling liquor or keeping entertainment at any muster-ground, horse-race, &c. without the order or permission of their owners are liable to be punished at the discretion of a Justice of the peace not exceeding twenty stripes.

A free negro or molatto living idle without any visible means of maintenance, may be apprehended and obliged to give security for his good behaviour in a sum not exceeding thirty dollars, and in default thereof, may be ordered by the Justice to leave the state within five days, and if he shall refuse to comply or shall return within six months, he may

may be committed, and if he does not discharge the prison fees within twenty days, may be sold by the Sheriff for a term not exceeding six months.

Negroes and other slaves running into the woods from their masters' service, and destroying cattle, &c. upon refusal to surrender themselves or making resistance against persons legally empowered, may be killed and destroyed.

If any slave is killed in resisting any officer or other person endeavouring to apprehend him such officer or other person is indemnified from any prosecution.

A negro or other slave striking a white person is to have one of his ears cropt.

It is lawful for the Justices of the county Court, to punish slaves convicted of going abroad in the night, or riding horses in the day time without leave, by cropping, branding in the cheek with the letter R. or otherwise, not extending to life or to render them unfit for labour.

Any slave attempting or conspiring to raise an insurrection or to murder any person, or to commit a rape upon a white woman, or to burn any dwelling-house or out-house wherein there are persons or goods, is punished with death without benefit of Clergy, unless the Judges, in their discretion, think proper to substitute labor on the public roads for a period not exceeding fourteen years.

Any negro or other slave, convicted by his own confession or verdict of Jury of petit treason, murder or arson, is to have his right hand cut off, to be hanged in the usual manner, to have his head severed from his body, the body divided into four quarters, and his head and quarters set up in the most public places of the county.

The full value of an executed slave is adjudged by the Court and paid to the owner.

A negro or molatto, guilty of pilfering or other crime or misdemeanor, cognizable by the county Court, may upon full proof before a Justice of the peace, be ordered to be whipped not exceeding forty lashes.

No negro or other slave is permitted to carry a gun or other offensive weapon from his master's land without licence, and any one offending therein may be whipped.

Abstracts

Abstracts of the laws of Virginia respecting slavery.

Free negroes and molattoes are by the constitution excluded from the right of suffrage, and of consequence from office too.

All negroes or molattoes, except such as are house-keepers or reside upon the frontiers, are prohibited from keeping or carrying any gun, powder, shot, club or other weapon, offensive or defensive.

Lifting the hand in opposition to a white person in any case, except a wanton assault on the negro or molatto, is punishable by whipping.

No negro or molatto can be a witness in any prosecution or civil suit in which a white person is a party.

Emancipated negroes may be sold to pay the debts of their former master, contracted before their emancipation, and they may be hired out to satisfy their taxes where no sufficient distress can be had—their children are to be bound out apprentice by the overseers of the poor.

Free negroes have all the advantages in capital cases which white men are entitled to, except a trial by a jury of their own complexion: and a slave suing for his freedom shall have the same privilege.

Free negroes residing or employed to labour in any town must be registered; the same thing is required of such as go at large in any county. The penalty in both cases is a fine upon the person employing or harbouring them, and imprisonment of the negro.

The migration of free negroes or molattoes to this state prohibited, and those who do migrate to it, may be sent back to the place from whence they came.

Any person having one-fourth negro blood in him is deemed a molatto.

No distinction made between negroes and molattoes, whether slaves or freemen.

Importation of slaves either by land or water prohibited—slaves brought into the state and kept therein one whole year or so long at different times as shall amount to a year, to be free—every person importing slaves, subject to a fine of two hundred dollars for each slave imported—the seller or buyer to pay a fine of one hundred dollars.

No

No persons to be slaves, except such as were so on the seventeenth of October, 1785, and the descendants of the females of them.

Any Justice of the peace having notice of the importation of any slaves directly or indirectly from any part of Africa or the West-Indies, to cause such slaves to be apprehended and transported out of the commonwealth.

Slaves not to go abroad without leave in writing from their masters, and if they do, may be whipped—any person suffering a slave to remain on his plantation for four hours together, or dealing with him without leave in writing from his master, is subject to a fine—a run-away slave may be apprehended and committed to jail, and if not claimed within three months (being first advertised,) he shall be hired out, having an iron collar first put about his neck—and if not claimed within a year, may be sold.

Riots, routs, unlawful assemblies, trespasses and seditious speeches by slaves, are punishable with stripes at the discretion of a Justice of the peace.

The master of a slave permitting him to go at large and trade as a free man, is subject to a fine; and if he suffers the slave to hire himself out, such slave may be sold, and twenty-five per cent. of the price be applied to the use of the county.

Slaves not permitted to intermarry with any white person, yet no punishment is annexed to the offence in the slave, nor is the marriage void; but the white person contracting the marriage and the Clergyman by whom it is celebrated, are liable to fine and imprisonment.

Slaves not admitted to the benefit of trial by Jury—Justices of every county or corporation, constituted Justices of Oyer and Terminer for the trial of slaves charged with treason or felony—requires five Justices at least to constitute a Court, and unanimity in the Court for his condemnation—allowed council to be paid by his owner—may object to the proceedings—thirty days allowed before execution, except in cases of conspiracy, insurrection or rebellion.

To attempt the chastity of a white woman forcibly, is punishable by dismemberment.

When any person conceives himself illegally detained as a slave, to make application to a Magistrate or to the Court of the district, county or corporation where he or she may reside and not elsewhere—petition for freedom to recite material facts, and the Court is to appoint council who shall report

report his opinion thereon before process shall issue—penalty on any person for advising, aiding or assisting a negro in the recovery of his freedom, in case he does not succeed therein, one hundred dollars, and be farther liable to the master in an action for damages.

Widow's dower in slaves saved to her, although emancipated by the husband's will, in case there is not property sufficient besides to amount to one-third part of his estate—where part of the slaves only are emancipated, the widow's part to be taken out of those not set free.

Husband cannot emancipate his slaves by will so as to deprive his widow of her dower therein, if his other estate be not of value sufficient to compensate her for one-third part of the whole estate.

Selling of any free person for a slave, knowing such person to be free, punishable with death.



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